

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Brunner U.S. 5,964,909. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For good and sufficient reasons previously made of record in this prosecution history, Brunner is not an effective prior art reference against the present application. The Examiner has not found those reasons to be persuasive. Rather than belabor such issues, however, Applicant submits herewith the "Combined Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 and 37 CFR 1.132" of Jack T. Clements.

The Clements Declaration establishes that the subject matter set forth in each of the Claims 1-11 of the application was invented at least before the effective filing date of September 4, 1998 of the Brunner U.S. Patent No. 5,964,909 which issued October 12, 1999. The Declaration is further supported by an assembly sketch (Exhibit A) and production drawings (Exhibits B-D) all dated before the effective date of Brunner. Specifically, assembly sketch Exhibit A illustrates a tubular metal insert installed in the mouth of the filter cartridge to effect a friction fit seal between the tube sheet opening and the resiliently deformable, molded top of the filter cartridge. The production drawings Exhibits B-D show dimensional details of similar tubular metal inserts for installation in the mouth of various sized filter cartridges to effect a friction fit seal between the tube sheet opening and the resiliently deformable, molded top of the filter cartridge.

The Clements Declaration, together with the attached Exhibits A-D, clearly demonstrates that the subject matter set forth in each of the Claims 1-11 of the application was invented at least before the filing date of September 4, 1998 of the Brunner U.S. Patent No. 5,964,909.

With respect to Claims 12-16, the subject matter set forth in each of these claims is

not taught or disclosed to one skilled in the art in Brunner U.S. Patent No. 5,964,909. More specifically, Claims 12-13 generally related to a contoured or scallop molded flange for the top fitting of the filter. Brunner does not show, teach or remotely suggest such a feature. Claims 14-16 relate to various features of the bottom end cap used to center and position the pleat pack relative to the bottom end cap. Brunner does not show, teach or remotely suggest any such features.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is believed that this case is in condition to pass to publication. Such action in the regular course of business is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version Showing Changes Made to Specification

In the specification, page 1, the first full paragraph was amended as follows:

--This application is a continuation-in-part application of our application Serial No. 09/273,792, filed March 22, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,017,378, issued January 25, 2000, which is a continuation application of our application Serial No. 08/862,552, filed May 23, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,885,314, issued March 23, 1999, which is a continuation application of our application Serial No. 08/350,885, filed December 6, 1994, originally issued May 27, 1997 as U.S. Patent No. 5,632,791 and subsequently surrendered for U.S. Patent No. RE37,163 E, reissued May 8, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part application of our design patent application Serial No. 29/022,499, filed May 6, 1994, now abandoned.--